

**Statement Of Arthur B. Waganheim
Cooper City, Florida
About Redistricting Plans For
Southwest Broward County**

October 1, 2001

Mr. Chairman And Honored Members Of The Redistricting Committee,

My name is Art Waganheim. I am a resident of Cooper City, Florida, which is located in Southwest Broward County. In the ten years in which my wife and I have lived in Southwest Broward County, I have seen this area develop into a true community of common interests. We have common shopping districts and common recreation areas as well as now being home to plentiful schools, healthcare facilities and places of worship.

Having reviewed the House districts that were formed in 1990 to represent this area, it is apparent to me that a major shift in representation is now needed to properly handle our community's common interests. After reading numerous newspaper articles on the current redistricting process, I obtained a copy of the FRED software program so that I could put together a House district that I believe best supports my community's requirements for representation.

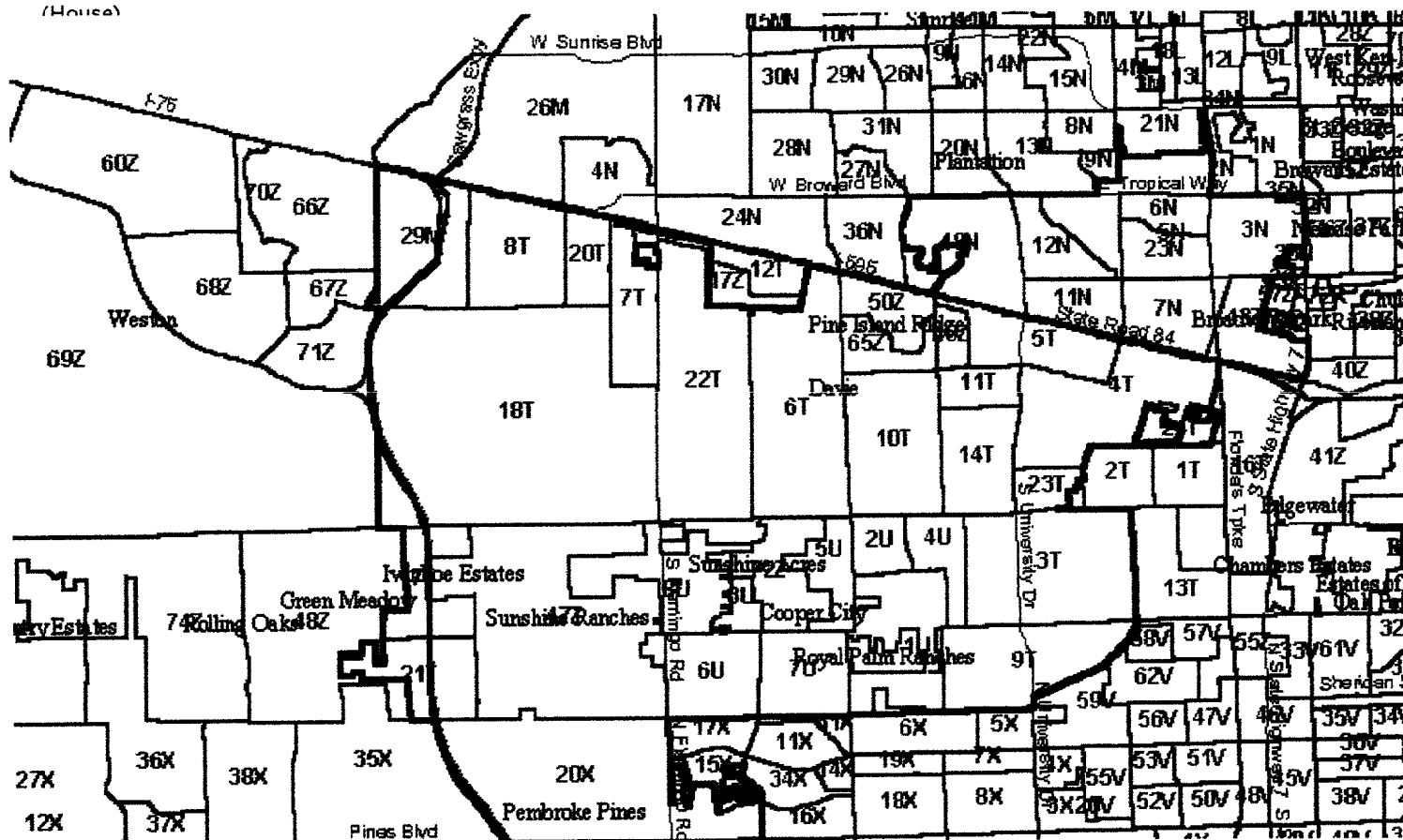
In order to generate the sufficient population count to form a House district for my Southwest Broward neighborhood, I looked for common occupations, similar housing values, consistent family incomes, and even a fair distribution of political party registrations.

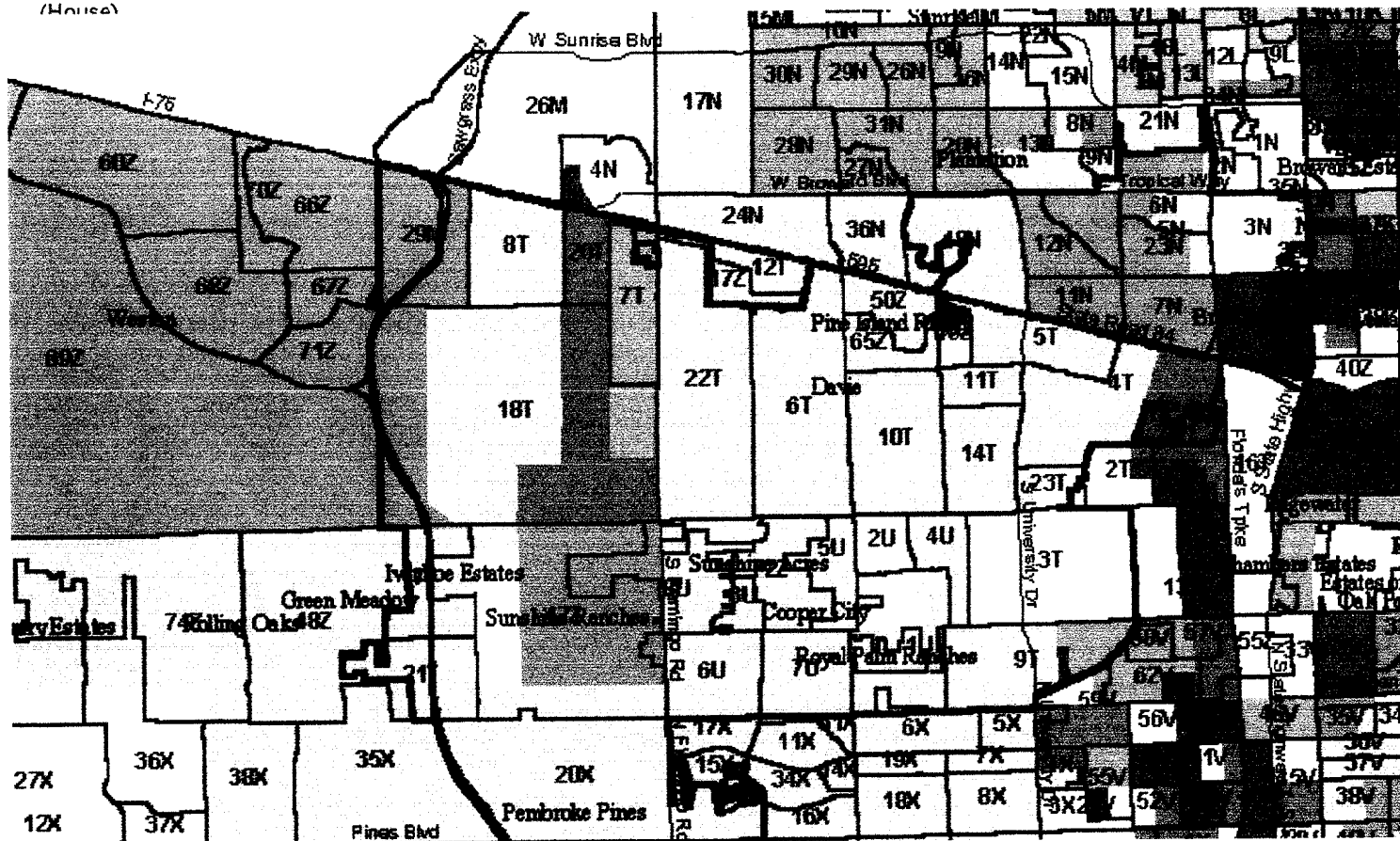
I believe that I have developed a House district that ties together the common interests of most residents of Cooper City and Davie along with a sufficient quantity of residents of Southwest Ranches, northern Pembroke Pines, and southern Plantation to meet the population requirements for a House District.

In drawing this proposed House District, I have loosely defined the proposed geographic area by using common highways and major streets. My proposed district would be loosely bounded on the west by I-75, on the south by Sheridan Street, on the east by Davie Road and Extension, and on the north by West Broward Boulevard.

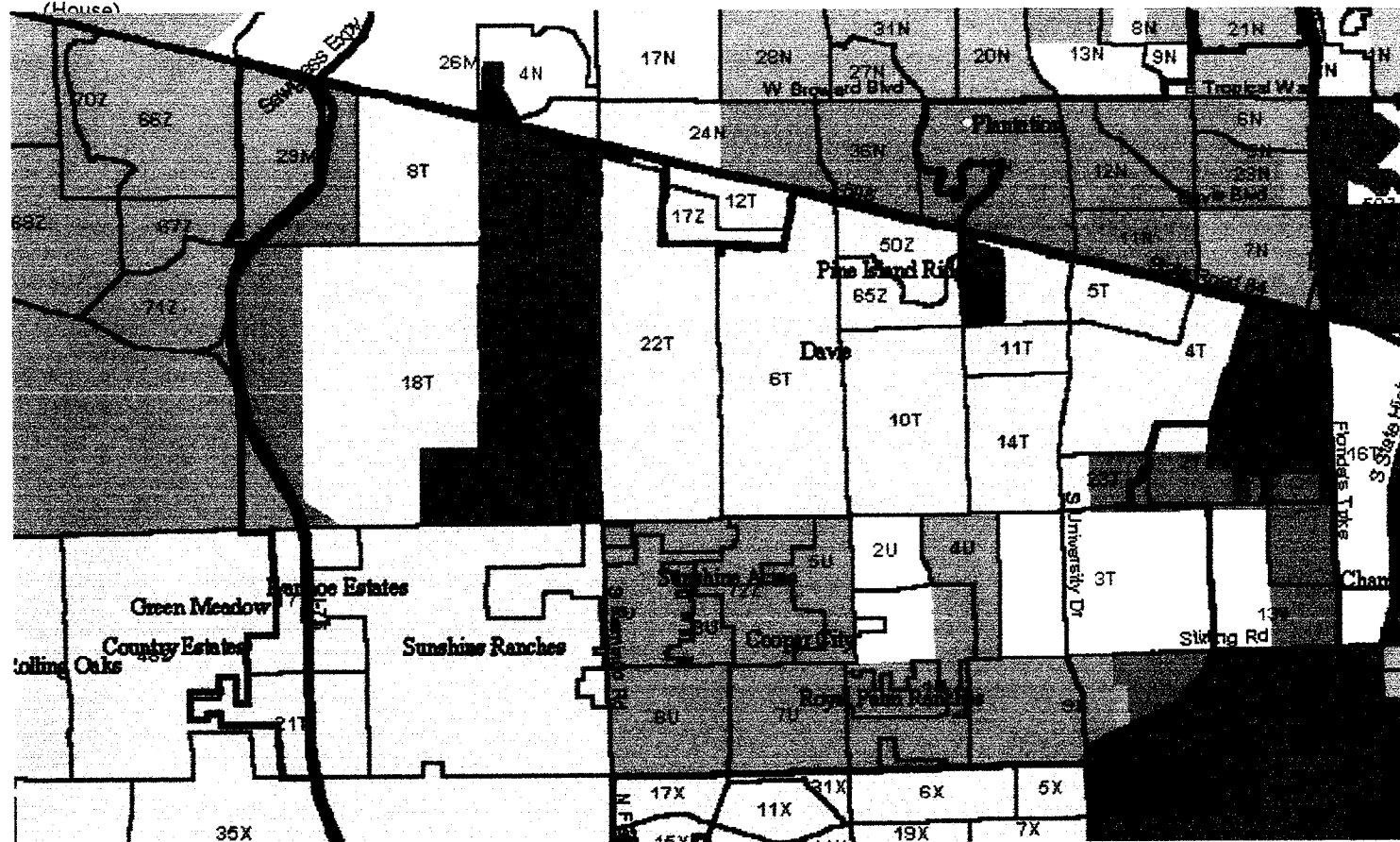
I am attaching several maps generated by the FREDs program which detail my proposed House district and reinforce the commonality of the cities and neighborhoods which I have included based on their residents' occupations, housing values, and family income.

I thank you for this opportunity to share my views on redistricting and hope that my research proves helpful in your decisions about how best to build a House District which supports and protects the common interests of our communities in Southwest Broward.

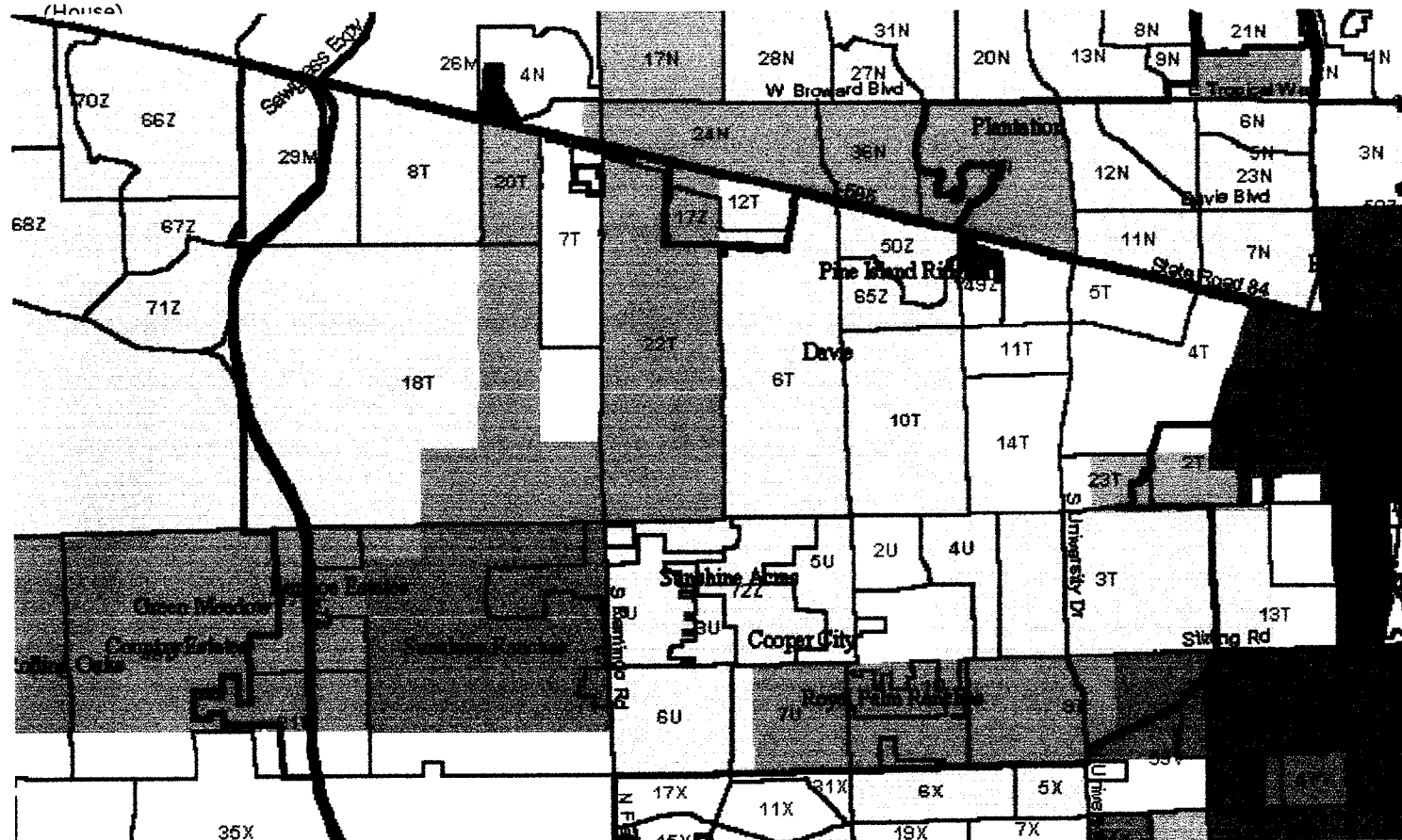
**Proposed District (Current Precincts)**



Proposed District By Profession



Proposed District By Education Level



Proposed District By Housing Value



Mr. Chair and Honored Members of the committee, My name is Alanna O. Merisnger, I reside at 2263 SW 182nd Way, Miramar, Florida, 33029.

I come before you today, to speak on behalf of myself and my children. I am extremely active within many school based organizations, but I am not here as their representative today, I come today as a parent. As you contemplate the difficult task before you, I believe it is necessary to put aside partisanship and consider the concept of one person, one vote. Don't dilute my voice.

I have three children, in three very overcrowded schools. My youngest son's elementary school was capped at 1840 students. It was built for 1015. My daughter is in a middle school with approx. 2500 students and my eldest son, goes to the famous Flanagan High School, whose enrollment now tops 5600 students. That is approx. 10,000 students within three school. The enrollment of those school consitute a small county within themselves. Don't make my representative split his/her efforts on behalf of my children between more than one county.

With the overwhelming growth issues that are now being felt in Western Broward County, I want to make sure that I am being truly represented. It may seem a little simplistic, but you can't dance to more than one fiddle at a time and I want my representative to be dancing to my fiddle, not someone else's.

We in here Western Broward have similar issues and needs and therefore should have proper representation that has some continuity. This is about one person, one vote, which should equate to representing people with common issues. This should have nothing to do with gerrymandering for the sake of party politics. What does my community with its urban sprawl and ever overcrowded schools have to do with the issues in somewhere, such as Collier County. Considering the fact that we have to fight for every dollar we get for our schools, I want someone strictly concentrating on my communities, not those in another county with dis-similar concerns.

I realize that because of our amazing growth we need to redistrict to bring the numbers into line. Let's just take people and their concerns into consideration and put the politics aside for once.

I may appear to be very selfish and you are correct. I want, no I demand proper representation for my children. For what type of parent would I be, if I didn't look to do what is right for my children. And in keeping with that concept what type of Legislative Committee would you be, if you didn't do the right thing by the people of this state.

Richard and Miriam Levine
12650 SW 15th Street Apt. F-414
Pembroke Pines, Florida 33027-2178
Phone #954-431-4281

Date: October 1, 2001

Subject: Redistricting

To: Mr. Chairman & Members of the Committee

My name is Miriam Levine, I live in Century Village, Pembroke Pines with my husband Richard Levine. District 101

Thank you for hearing me out..

Do not want our present Representative ~~Rep. Kipp Hattigh~~ out of our district. He has worked for us for senior citizens, health and transportation. He also worked to improve and protect the quality of life in condominiums, which is important. He understands our needs.

Please try not to break up our district.

Miriam Levine-

Good Morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Susan Greene Heichen and I am a resident of the Silver Lakes community in western Pembroke Pines. I have two young children that attend the Pembroke Pines Charter School and I have lived in Pembroke Pines since 1992. Yes, 1992 before Hurricane Andrew, my husband and I escaped Dade County (we were living in Kendall) to move into what we thought was going to be a quiet, relatively uncrowded community where we could raise a family without the congestion that we were escaping in Dade. We all know what has happened in Southwest Broward since Hurricane Andrew and to say it is overcrowded is a gross understatement.

I also want to tell you that I was privileged to work as a Legislative Aide in the Florida Legislature many years ago and understand the legislative process and the importance of these hearings. Having said that, I want to express my support for keeping our legislators, both House and Senate, in our community. Southwest Broward has many unique attributes as do other regions. It would be a mistake, however, to try to combine high growth areas such as mine, for example, with more rural communities in other counties. Even though they may be adjacent to each other, we all know the issues are quite different. As a former legislative aide, I know how difficult it is for a legislator to respond to and accommodate the needs of his or her district's constituents when their concerns are relatively similar. It would most difficult, if not impossible, for a legislator to properly handle a district in which the core issues are so drastically different.

The reality is ...some part of the district will get the "short end" of the legislator's attention. Typically, the community where the legislator is not from will receive the least attention. Why? Because Representatives by their very definition are in place to represent their constituents. It is very difficult for a legislator from Broward County to understand, empathize and advocate on behalf of a constituent in Collier County whose needs, concerns and priorities are so different than their own. I know it has been done before but you must ask yourself, with what

degree of success? Let's learn from the mistakes of the past and draw districts that make common sense. It is quite simply the purpose and the objective of our decennial reapportionment process – to ensure fair, objective representation of our citizens.

Susan Greene Hinch

1533 NW 178 Way
Pembroke Pines, FL 33029

954-436-9904

To Legislative Committee on Redistricting: Oct. 1

My name is Carol Smith and I live in Coral Springs.

Thank you for allowing citizen participation in this process. It is so important that these district lines be drawn fairly. I would like to suggest several criteria that I would encourage you to follow in addition to equal population and being contiguous.

Districts should be as compact as possible--with the no jagged, squiggly lines.

They should respect municipal boundaries whenever possible, not dilute the voting strength of groups based on race, religion or national origin.

Districts lines should not be drawn to favor or disfavor any political party, or any incumbent.

I would also request that there be an opportunity to comment on the maps you draw before the Legislature gives final approval. Citizen input is vital.

South Florida has unique problems, deserves to have those lines drawn carefully and fairly to respect our concerns.

Thank you.

Good Morning Ladies & Gentlemen

**To my knowledge, CVE is a community of
vast interests and shares a very close ,
almost personal relationship with both
Senator Ron Klein and Congressman
Robert Wexler.**

**These two gentlemen know us, our needs,
our community, and more importantly
we know them. We don't want this to change.**

**We do not relish breaking things up into two
congressional districts. Please... do not
endanger the precious reliance we share
with these two great men.**



Walter Slattery
Sierra Club

BROWARD COUNTY GROUP

STATEMENT SIERRA CLUB RE. **REDISTRICTING** **October 1, 2001**

Good Morning my name is Walter Slattery; I am the political chair for the Sierra Club that represents Broward County with nearly 2500 members across the Broward County.

I came here this morning to address the issue regarding redistricting and its importance to the local, state and federal lawmaking process in 2001.

The Sierra Club is fundamentally concerned with the issue of fairness and how it is the cornerstone of redistricting this year.

Fairness means allowing the public to have meaningful input into the reapportionment process.

Fairness also means ensuring that the public has the tools to review and understand the redistricting plans and comment on them accordingly and in a timely and meaningful fashion.

And fairness means a process and a plan that takes into consideration the concerns of the state that is comprised of diverse, ethnic communities, including African Americans Haitians, Asians and and Muslims, among others.

Finally, fairness means listening to the public and respecting their sense of communities of interest. It means taking the time to understand areas of concern based on environmental, educational social and other public policy concerns. The state chapter of the Sierra Club has the support of nearly dozen advocacy organizations statewide and I can provide you with that list that supports this statement. We are a diverse group of advocacy organizations from various political viewpoints and from varying geographic areas, who expect fairness in the redistricting process.

We ask that the hearings be held in more areas so that Floridians do not have to drive nearly 200 miles just to have their voices heard. We



BROWARD COUNTY GROUP

ask those political subdivisions, such as cities and counties are considered more strongly in the new proposals.

We ask that the State Legislature commit to holding public hearings after plans are released so that the public can react to the actual proposals.

We ask that the sufficient time be provided before any legislative action to allow the public to respond to all proposals that are to be considered at all legislative meetings, including committee meetings and floor votes.

We ask that no plan be prepared or debated until after a full public debate on specific guidelines are adopted and published. We ask That at a minimum, these guidelines provide and meet all legal and constitutional requirements. And that they be as compact as possible, considering the necessity of protecting voting rights for minorities, protecting communities of interest and respecting political subdivisions. Finally, we ask that all legislative actions on redistricting and reapportionment take place at times and in locations that maximize citizen participation, namely holding meetings on weekends and in the evening when working people of Florida can attend those all important meetings.

As Justice Potter Steward said a half a century ago, fairness is what justice really is. In asking for fairness we ask for nothing more than justice and we expect nothing less.

Thanks you for your time.

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